

For Immediate Release
August 4, 2005

Contact: Mike Brown, 645-6428
Mary Webster, 645-7263

Mayor Selects Plan to Re-Light Short North Arches
\$1.3 million committed for new power supply and
LED lights that can change color

(Columbus) After reviewing a series of options, Mayor Michael B. Coleman selected a high-performing, low-energy system to turn the lights back on for the Short North Arches on High Street. Once installed along with an improved electrical system, the lights, known as Light Emitting Diode, or LED, will be able to change colors and provide strobe effects. The LED system will replace the failed original system, which showed signs of failure just days after the lights were officially turned on in December 2002.

“This unique LED system is designed to provide the reliability, variety and quality that the historic Short North, our residents and visitors deserve,” said Mayor Coleman. “While the City continues to press the legal suit against the designer of the first system, we will move forward with the improvements needed to make these 17 arches glow brightly again.”

During the eight months of testing, starting in December 2004, of four potential lighting systems on the two northern-most arches, citizens reacted favorably to the special effects performed by the LED system and to the brightness of an alternative incandescent system. The LED system the Mayor selected has been modified to increase the brightness to be closer to that of incandescent lights. In addition to a new lighting system, the City will install a new electrical distribution system to provide direct power to the circuits for the arches, separate from the street-lighting system in the Short North.

“The design of the new power system is already under way, and our teams are preparing to go to High Street and install the LED lights next spring,” said Public Service Director Henry Guzmán. “We are setting forth an ambitious calendar to fix the problems permanently.”

The estimated cost to re-light the arches is \$1.3 million, the City plans to recoup these costs through its lawsuit, filed in January 2004 against EG&G, the designer of the original lighting system. This suit is on track to go to trial in January 2006. The testing study of the four potential systems is available by contacting Mary Webster in the Public Service Department.